

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 2-5, 8 and 11 will remain pending in the above-identified application with claims 2-5 and 8 standing rejected and claim 11 standing allowed.

The present amendment to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. In this respect claims 6-7 have been cancelled, while 2-4 and 8 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 11 (and to remove redundant parts therefrom based on this new dependency). The amendments do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed, as they find support in the original specification and claims.

Further, because the Examiner previously indicated that claim 11 is allowed, it follows that all outstanding rejections should now be overcome, since each of dependent claims 2-5 and 8 ultimately depend from allowed claim 11 and therefore include its limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 2-6 and 8 have been rejected under the provisions of 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Raidel (WO 96/00545). Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Raidel WO '545 in view of Schlunk et al. (US 5,871,836). Reconsideration and withdrawal of

each of these rejections is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

As indicated above each of claims 2-4 and 8 have been amended to depend directly from allowed claim 11, also dependent claim 5 ultimately depends from allowed claim 11. As such, each of the above rejections has been overcome, and withdrawal thereof is now required.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claim 11 is allowed.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that pending claims 2-5, 8 and 11 are allowed at present.

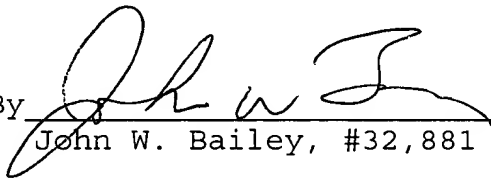
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/956,950

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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